

XXXI.—Obituary.

MR. A. D. MILLAR.

It is with much regret that we learn of the death, on May 10th last, of Mr. Alfred Duchesne Millar, who has been a Colonial Member of this Union since 1905. He was born at Durban on July 30th, 1858, the son of the Hon. Mr. J. Millar, member of the Natal Legislative Council. He was educated in Natal, and spent the whole of his life there, never, we believe, having visited England or even Europe.

Millar took up the Law as a profession, and was well-known in Durban, where he practised, as a man of the strictest integrity and a very sound lawyer. For many years he was Vice-President of the Natal Law Society. All his spare time was devoted to sport and natural history. He was an extraordinarily good observer, and it was a most interesting experience to accompany him for a walk in the "bush," when he would recognise and name every bird and insect met with. He was also a very expert taxidermist, and made excellent bird-skins; his collection of insects was a delight to look at, every specimen being most neatly prepared and mounted.

While engaged on the volumes on the 'Birds of South Africa,' the writer of this notice was in constant correspondence with Millar, who helped him with the loan of many rare birds which were not represented in the collection of the South African Museum, and furnished him with numerous notes on the life-histories of the birds of Natal.

Millar published very little under his own name, and I can find only two short papers of his in the Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. These are entitled, "Ornithological Notes from Natal," and "On the Nidification of the Striped Kingfisher (*Halcyon chelicuti*)." He took a great deal of interest in the Durban Museum, to which both he and his brother Harold contributed largely. He was a member of the Museum Committee from 1895, and its

President from 1909. It is to be hoped that his valuable collections of Birds' eggs, Birds, and Insects will find a permanent home there.

Millar made many excursions to Zululand, and further north on the East Coast, hunting and collecting, and his house was stored with the spoils taken on these excursions. We are indebted to Mr. E. C. Chubb, the Curator of the Durban Museum, for some newspapers containing an account of his life. Mr. Chubb also informs me that he hopes to be able to acquire for the Durban Museum, Millar's Collection of Birds' Eggs, which consists of about 2500 eggs forming 617 clutches, 74 of the latter belonging to species of which the eggs are at present undescribed.

Millar's early and premature death is a sad loss to South African Ornithology and Entomology, good field-observers being few and far between in that part of the world.

W. L. S.

XXXII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 573.]

81. '*Annals of Scottish Natural History.*'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. A Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated the 'Scottish Naturalist.' April, July, 1911.]

In the first of these numbers the chief interest centres in two species of birds new to the Scottish List, one of which (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) is also new to Western Europe. It was observed by the Duchess of Bedford on Fair Isle in September 1910, and subsequently secured. The other (*Locustella lanceolata*) has only been recorded twice from Western Europe—in Lincolnshire and on Heligoland; the present example is from the Pentland Skerries.

Mr. R. Clyne reports on the rock-breeding birds of the Butt of Lewis, but has nothing very striking to relate, and Mr. H. B. Watt has four pages of additions and corrections to his